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16

NEW X-MEN

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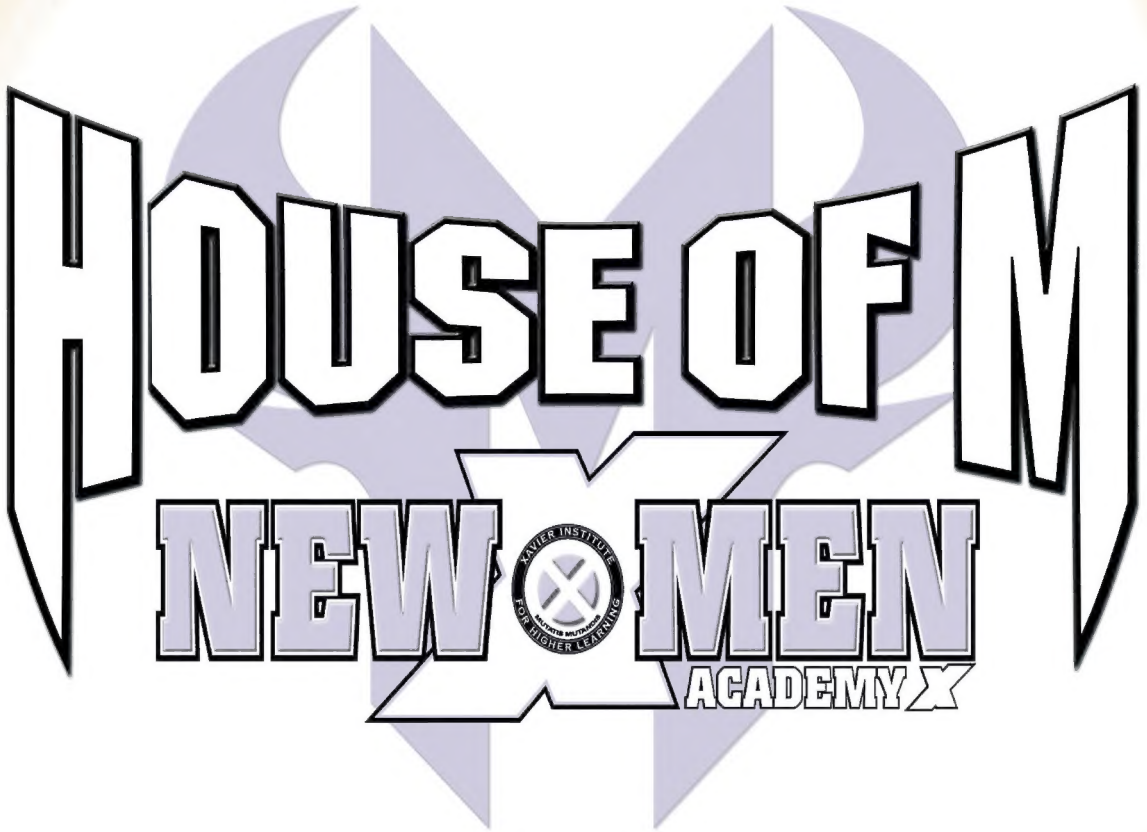


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THE WORLD WE KNEW...

Born with genetic mutations that give them abilities beyond those of normal humans, mutants are the next stage in evolution. As such, they were feared and hated. But a group of mutants known as the X-MEN fought for the safety of mutants and peaceful co-existence between mutant and humankind. Their headquarters also served as a school for the next generation of mutants. These students trained in squads, and two squads, the NEW MUTANTS and the HELLIONS, frequently clashed in training exercises and personal matters. And then the world burned white...



THE WORLD WE NOW LIVE IN...

The world has been remade. In the new world, ERIK MAGNUS, the man known as MAGNETO, won his war in defense of mutant-kind. He has made a better life for all mutants, or Homo Superior, and the world is under his control. Homo Superior live ideal lives and outnumber their genetic predecessors, Homo Sapiens. The remaining Homo Sapiens must live in a world now dominated by mutants.

Welcome to the HOUSE OF M.

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NEW YORK

TWENTY YEARS AGO, HOMO SUPERIOR FINALLY CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER THE OPPRESSION OF HOMO SAPIENS.

THIS WAS DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF MANY. BUT THEY WERE LED BY ONE. MAGNETO.

THE WORLD NEEDS MUTANTS OF GREAT CALIBER. BRILLIANT MINDS. BRILLIANT SOULS. BRILLIANT LEADERS. LIKE MAGNETO.

AND THAT IS WHY WE FOUNDED THE NEW MUTANT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.

YOU'RE NOT HERE TO LEARN TO FIGHT. THE FIGHT IS OVER. THE WORLD IS AT PEACE. YOU'RE HERE NOW TO LEARN HOW TO LEAD.



AND THIS YEAR, SO MANY OF YOU TOOK GREAT STEPS TOWARDS BECOMING THE VISIONARIES OF TOMORROW.

THE ONES WHO WILL CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR HOMO SUPERIOR AND HOMO SAPIEN.



WHEN DO WE MAKE OUR MOVE?

SOON.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE PRIZEGIVING. A DAY FOR EXCELLENCE AMONG THE NEW MUTANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED.



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BOXED ME OUT, DAVID.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE UPSET, QUENTIN. YOU'RE STILL SALUTATORIAN.

BITE ME.



GO! NOW! WE'LL SHOW THESE MUTANTS HOW WE CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE!

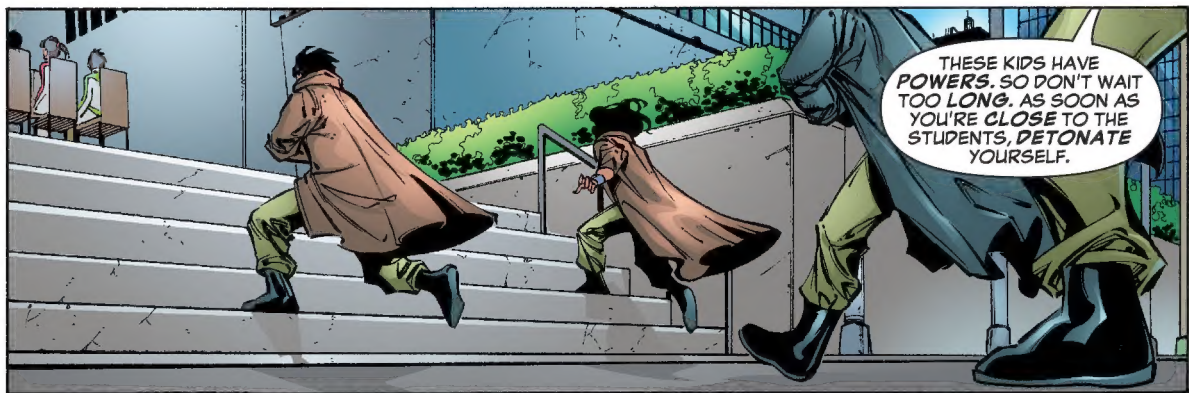


DAVID, DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO QUENTIN. YOU DESERVE THIS. HE'S JUST A JEALOUS LOSER.

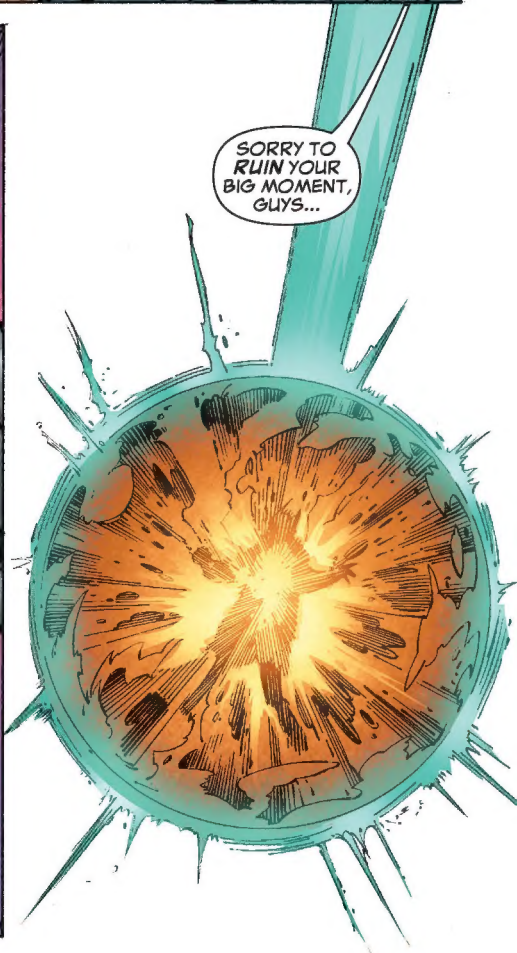
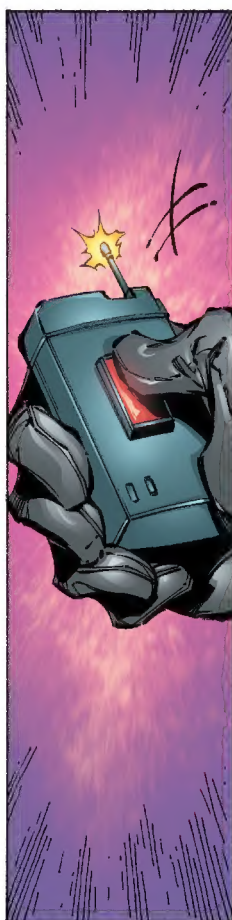
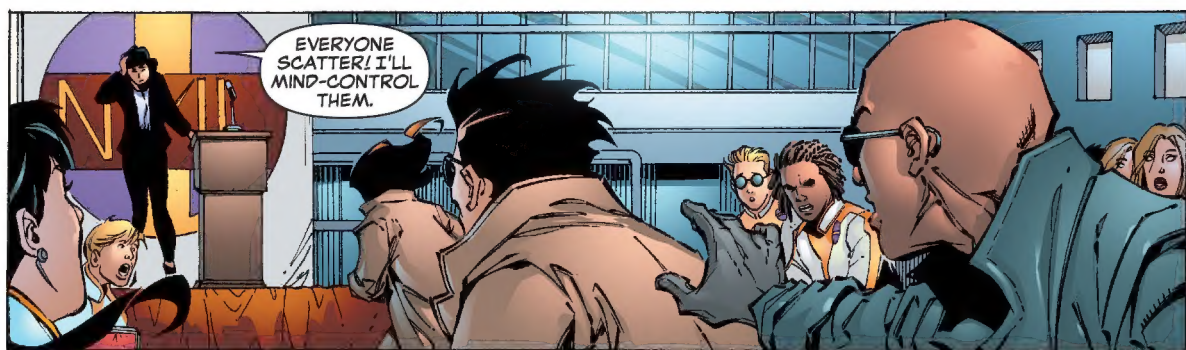
YOU KNOW, I'M RIGHT HERE, LAURIE. I CAN HEAR YOU.

YEAH, LAY OFF, QUENTIN EARNED HIS GRADES, UNLIKE DAVID.

I DON'T NEED YOU DEFENDING ME, BRIAN.



THESE KIDS HAVE POWERS. SO DON'T WAIT TOO LONG. AS SOON AS YOU'RE CLOSE TO THE STUDENTS, DETONATE YOURSELF.



HOUSE DIVIDED

PART 1 of 4

...BUT IF ANYONE'S GONNA MAKE THE NEW MUTANTS LOOK BAD, IT'S GONNA BE US!

FOCUS, HELLIONS! THIS IS NOT A DRILL!

UNDERSTOOD, AGENT MOONSTAR.

I KNOW THE HEADMASTER, AND SHAN COY MANH IS NOT GOING TO LET HER KIDS FIGHT.

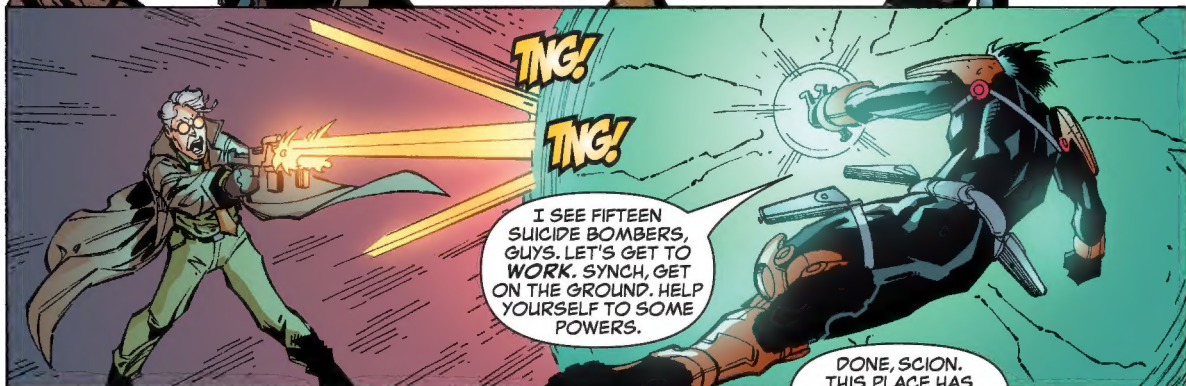
IT'S ALL UP TO JUNIOR S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS.





I WON'T LET
THE SINS OF JAPAN
GO UNPUNISHED!

THEY SHOULD'VE
SENT THE RED GUARD
AFTER ME. NOT A
BUNCH OF CHILDREN.

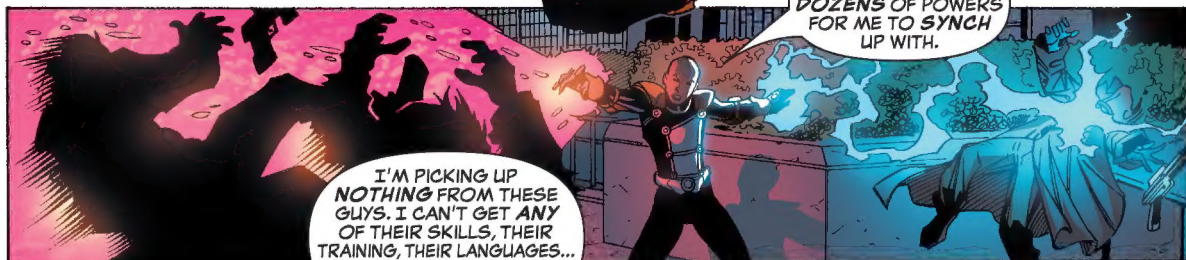


TNG!

TNG!

I SEE FIFTEEN
SUICIDE BOMBERS,
GUYS. LET'S GET TO
WORK. SYNCH, GET
ON THE GROUND. HELP
YOURSELF TO SOME
POWERS.

DONE, SCION.
THIS PLACE HAS
DOZENS OF POWERS
FOR ME TO **SYNCH**
UP WITH.



I'M PICKING UP
NOTHING FROM THESE
GUYS. I CAN'T GET ANY
OF THEIR SKILLS, THEIR
TRAINING, THEIR LANGUAGES...
NOTHING. THEY MUST BE
IMMUNE TO MENTAL
POWERS.

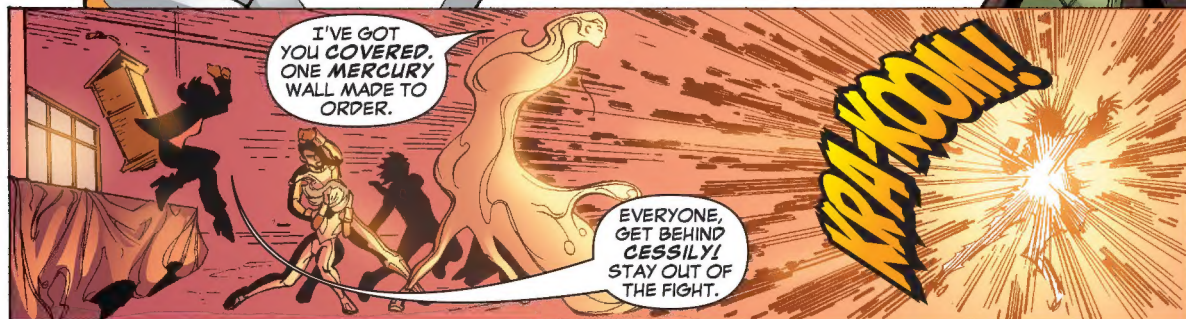


BRIAN,
GIRLS...WE'RE
ALL **USELESS**
HERE.



MY POWER ISN'T
MENTAL, DAVID. IT'S
PHEROMONES. I
CAN AFFECT THESE
GUYS.

BUT WE'RE NOT
COMBAT-TRAINED,
LAURIE. WE'RE IN A
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.
LET THE **HELLIONS**
HANDLE THIS.



I'VE GOT
YOU **COVERED**.
ONE **MERCURY**
WALL MADE TO
ORDER.

EVERYONE,
GET BEHIND
CESSILY!
STAY OUT OF
THE FIGHT.

KRA-KOUM!



SO, WHAT--
ARE WE JUST
GOING TO RUN
AND HIDE?

I DON'T THINK
SO. THEY'RE, LIKE,
**BLOWIN' UP OUR
SCHOOL!**



LOOK, SOORAYA
AND JUBILEE ARE
PROTECTING
THEMSELVES!

SOORAYA AND
JUBILEE NEVER DO
WHAT THEY'RE TOLD
AND THEY'RE GOING
TO GET THEMSELVES
KILLED!



LOOKS
LIKE THE
NEW MUTANTS
ARE RUNNING
SCARED!

AND THESE
CLOWNS ARE
GOING OFF LIKE
FIRECRACKERS,
GUYS. SO LET'S
WORK FAST.

SURGE,
YOU GOT
THIS?



EXCUSE
ME, SAPIEN.

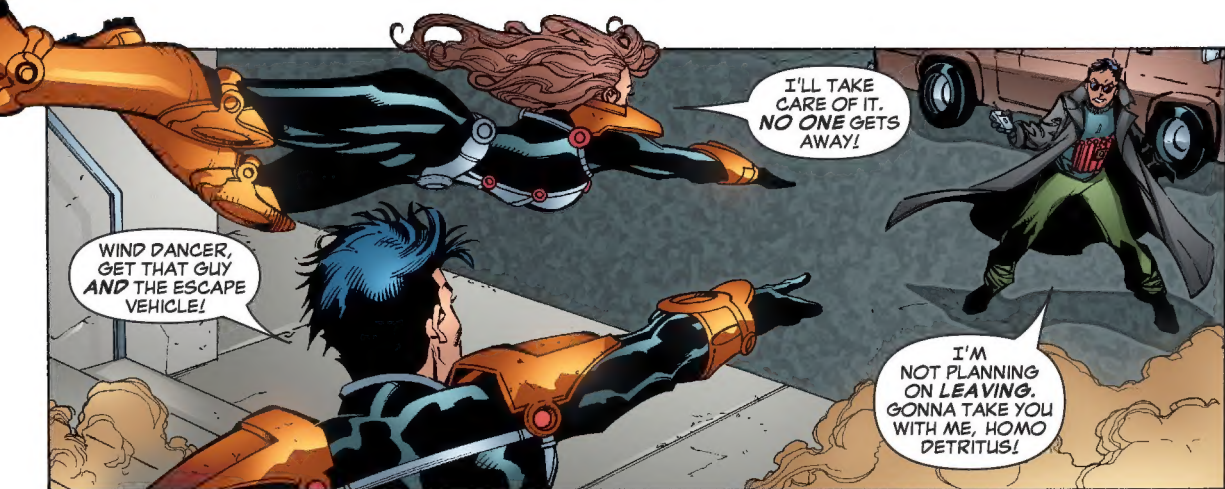
I'LL TAKE
THAT, THANK
YOU.

FAST?
I CAN DO
FAST.



THESE GUYS
WON'T BE BLOWING
ANYTHING UP. BUT
THERE ARE STILL A
COUPLE LEFT.

NICE WORK,
NORIKO.



WELL DONE, HELLIONS. EXCELLENT FIRST MISSION.

AGENT MOONSTAR, A WORD PLEASE.

CAN WE MAKE THIS *QUICK*? I'M A LITTLE BUSY.

THIS WAS A *FIRST* MISSION FOR YOUR TEAM? THE SAFETY OF MY KIDS AND MY SCHOOL WASN'T WORTH *FULLY-TRAINED AGENTS*?

HEADMASTER MANH. THE HELLIONS ARE THE *ELITE SQUAD* OF TRAINEES AT *S.H.I.E.L.D.*

AND THEY GOT THE JOB DONE. WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOUR GROUP OF SO-CALLED "*FUTURE LEADERS*."

BY THE WAY, HEARD YOUR SPEECH. THE GOOD OF *SAPIENS*? BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.

S.H.I.E.L.D. IS MONITORING OUR SCHOOL NOW? WONDERFUL.

THANKS FOR THE SAVE, AGENT MOONSTAR. YOU AND YOUR KIDS CAN GO NOW.

NO NEED TO THANK US, EVERYONE. WE KNOW YOU ONLY TRAIN FOR TALKING AND SIGNING PAPERS. LEAVE THE FIGHTING TO THE *REAL* MUTANTS.

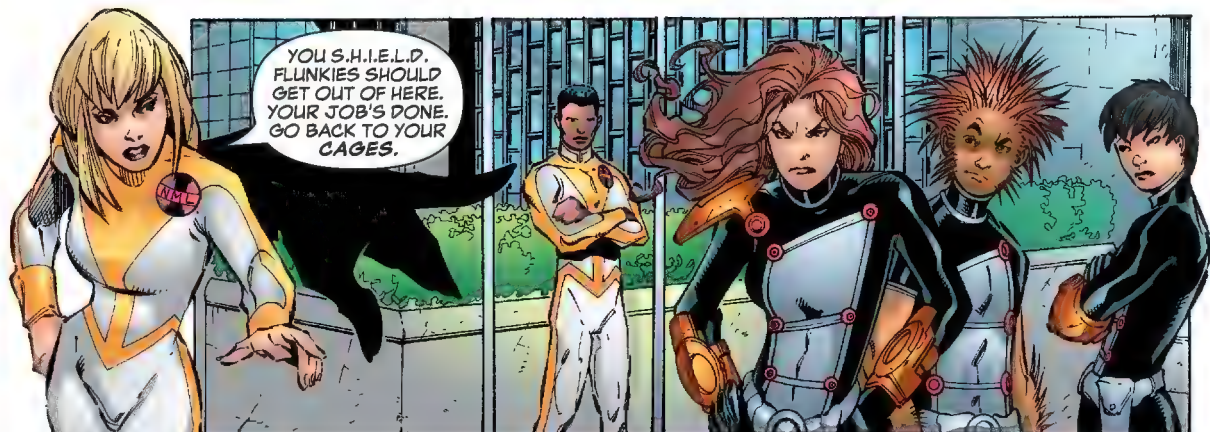
LISTEN, DORKUS. SAVOR THIS MOMENT. BECAUSE SOON WE'LL BE *RUNNING* THE WORLD AND YOU'LL EITHER BE GUARDING IT OR *SWEEPING* IT UP.

LET IT GO, SOORAYA. OTHER THAN BEING MILDLY CUTE, HE ISN'T WORTH OUR TIME.

I CAN'T. HE'S SO *SMUG*, JUBILEE.

BUT YEAH...HE IS KINDA CUTE. WHY ARE THE CUTE ONES ALWAYS SUCH *JERKS*?

WAY OF THE WORLD, GIRLFRIEND. WAY OF THE WORLD.



YOU S.H.I.E.L.D. FLUNKIES SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE. YOUR JOB'S DONE. GO BACK TO YOUR CAGES.

YOU NEW MUTANTS ARE THE MOST STUCK-UP, ARROGANT BUNCH OF COWARDS I'VE EVER MET.

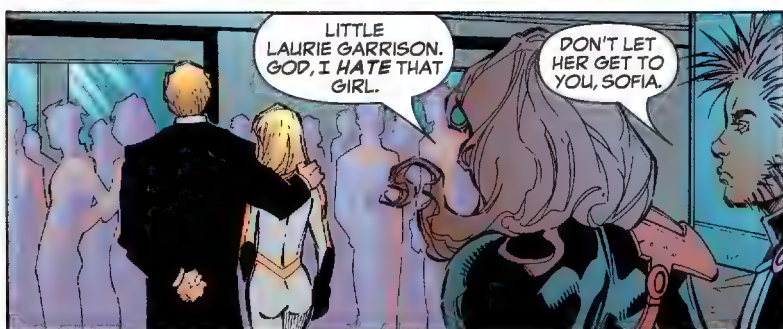
AND YOU, DADDY'S GIRL, ARE THE WORST OF THE BUNCH.



LAURIE, THE HELLIONS SAVED OUR LIVES TODAY. THIS IS *NOT* HOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TREAT THEM.

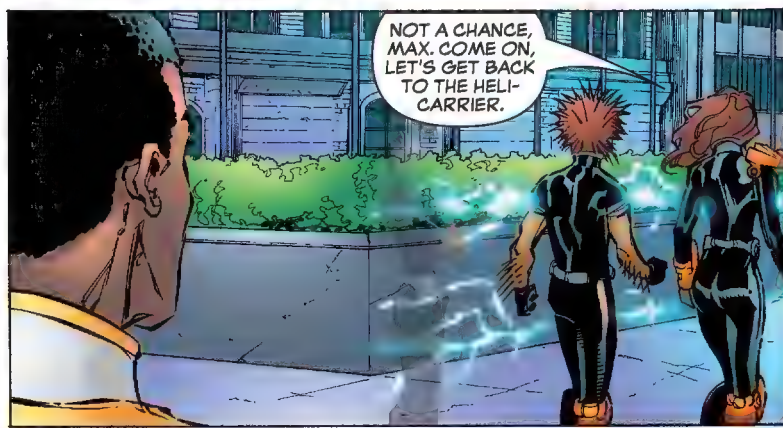
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD KNOW HOW TO BE COURTEOUS, GIVEN WHO YOUR FATHER IS.

YES, MR. RAMSEY.

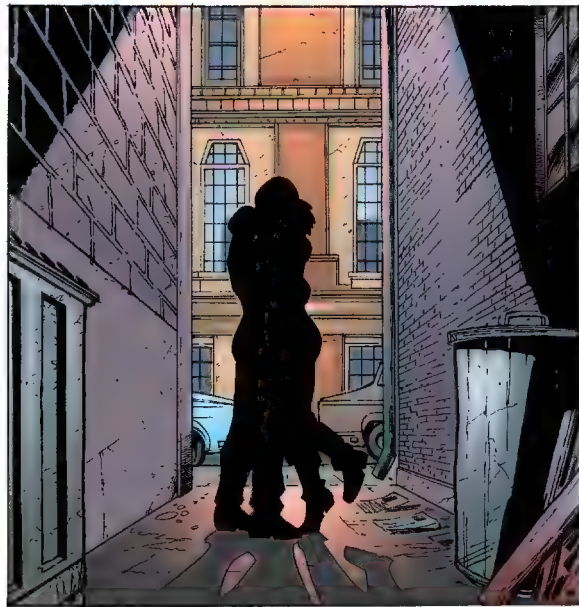
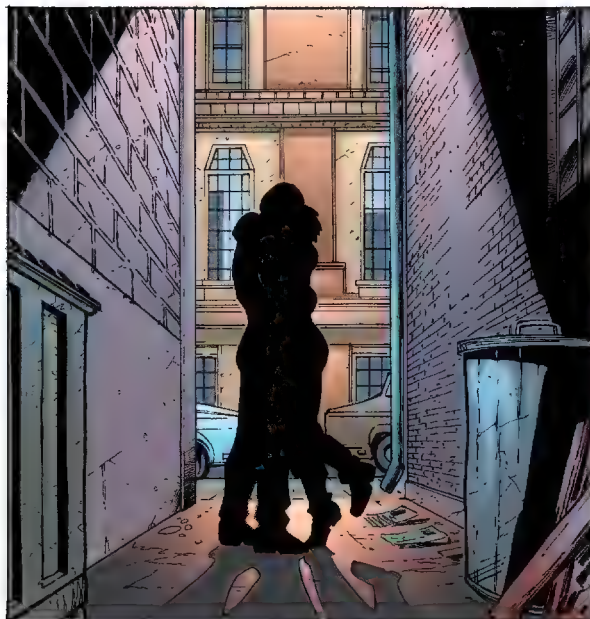


LITTLE LAURIE GARRISON. GOD, I HATE THAT GIRL.

DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU, SOFIA.



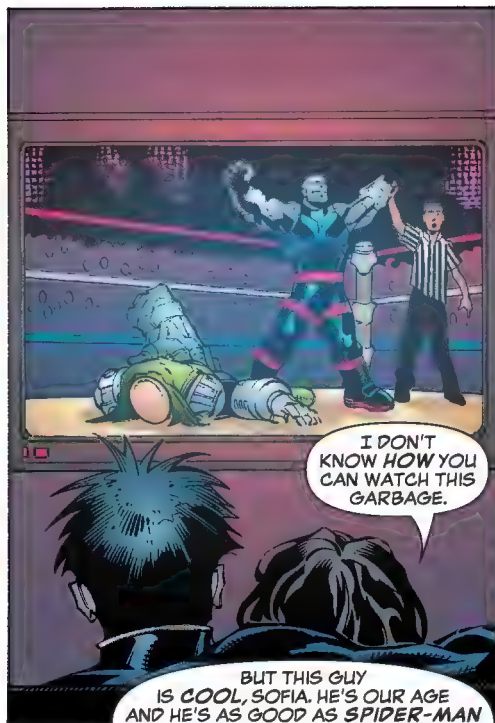
NOT A CHANCE, MAX. COME ON, LET'S GET BACK TO THE HELI-CARRIER.





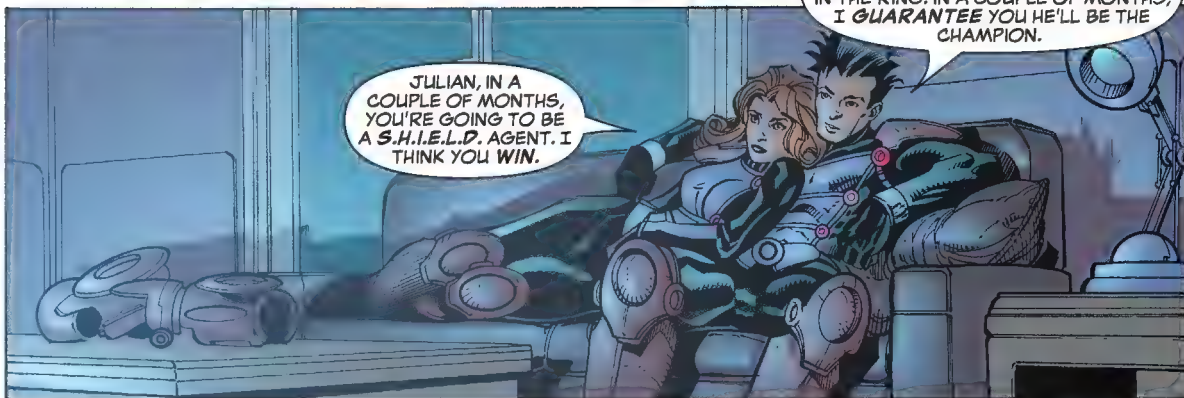


OOOH,
THAT'S GOTTA
HURT!



I DON'T
KNOW HOW YOU
CAN WATCH THIS
GARBAGE.

BUT THIS GUY
IS COOL, SOFIA. HE'S OUR AGE
AND HE'S AS GOOD AS SPIDER-MAN
IN THE RING. IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS,
I GUARANTEE YOU HE'LL BE THE
CHAMPION.



JULIAN, IN A
COUPLE OF MONTHS,
YOU'RE GOING TO BE
A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT. I
THINK YOU WIN.



I DON'T KNOW...SOMETIMES I
WISH I COULD USE MY POWERS
AND NOT HAVE IT BE A CASE
OF LIFE OR DEATH.

WE WON
TODAY, JULIAN.
WE DID GOOD.

YOU COULD
HAVE DIED,
BEAUTIFUL.

BUT I
DIDN'T.

NOK NOK



SOFIA, JULIAN...
TEAM MEETING IN
THE CONFERENCE
ROOM. NOW.



FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. THE HELLIONS ARE GETTING A NEW TEAM MEMBER. MEET ILLYANA RASPUTIN. AN ACCOMPLISHED TELEPORTER. FIELD NAME: **MAGIK**.



NO OFFENSE, AGENT MOONSTAR, BUT DID YOU *SEE* US OUT THERE TODAY? WE DON'T *NEED* A NEW TEAM MEMBER. ESPECIALLY NOT SOME KID WHO NEEDS BABY-SITTING.



WHO'RE YOU CALLING A KID?

GET BACK TO US WHEN YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO STAY OUT AFTER DARK.



I'LL SHOW YOU DARK.

ZWISH

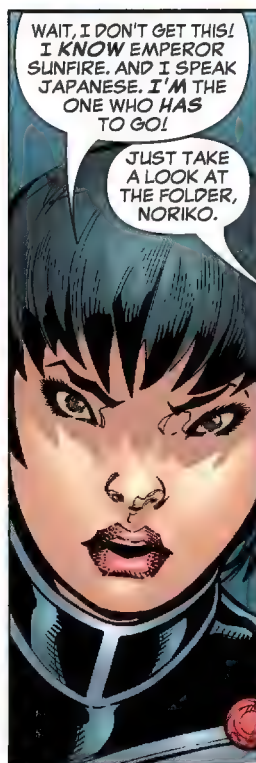
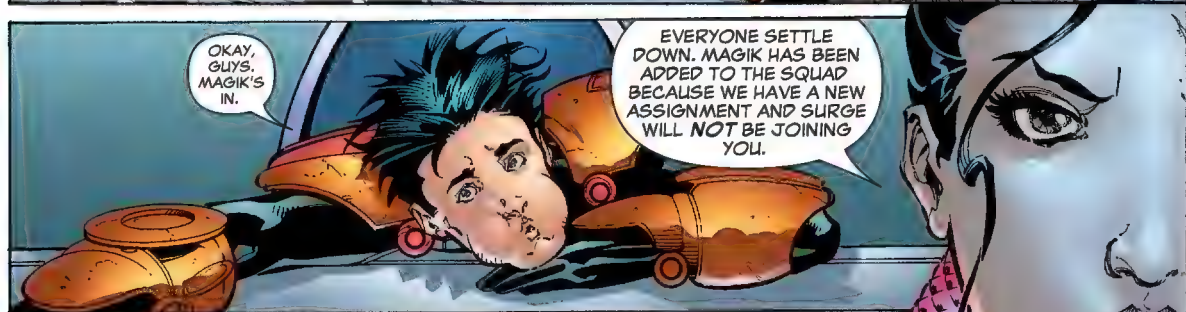
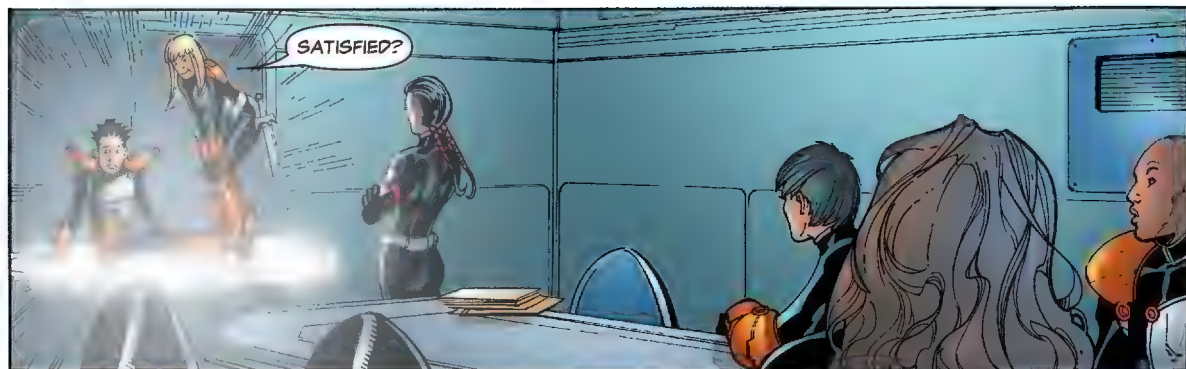


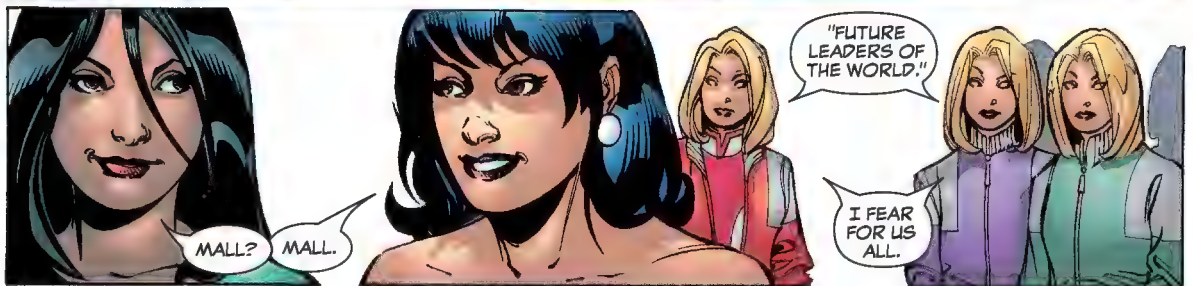
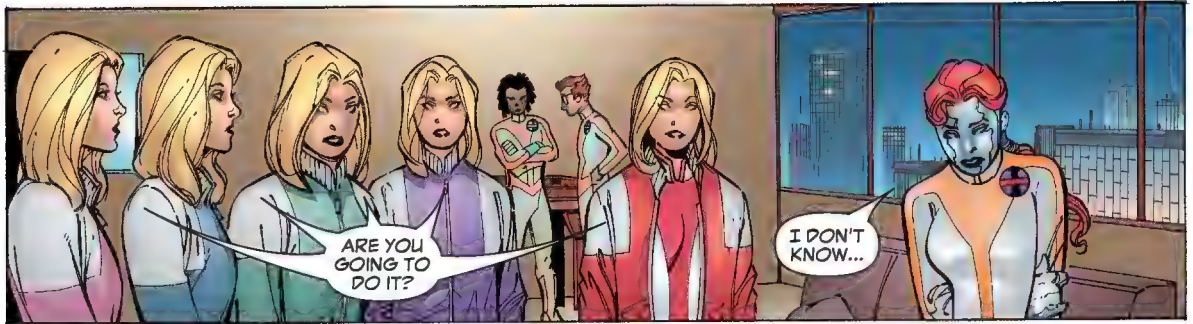
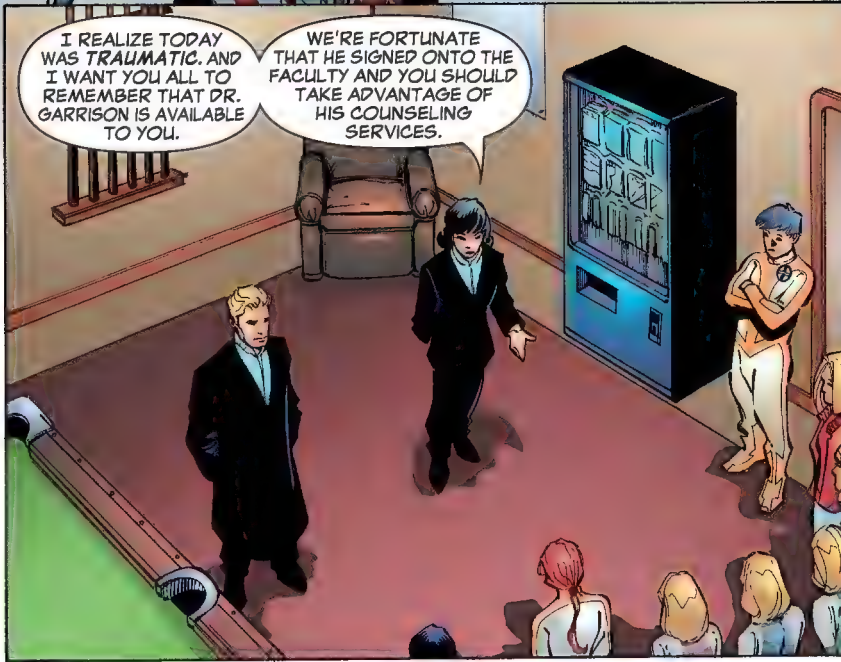
WHAT THE--? WHERE ARE WE?

ONE OF MANY REALMS SOME PEOPLE WOULD CALL HELL.

S-SERIOUSLY?

NO, MORON. IT'S THE BASE OF AN ACTIVE VOLCANO. BUT IF I SENT YOU HERE BY YOURSELF, YOU'D NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.





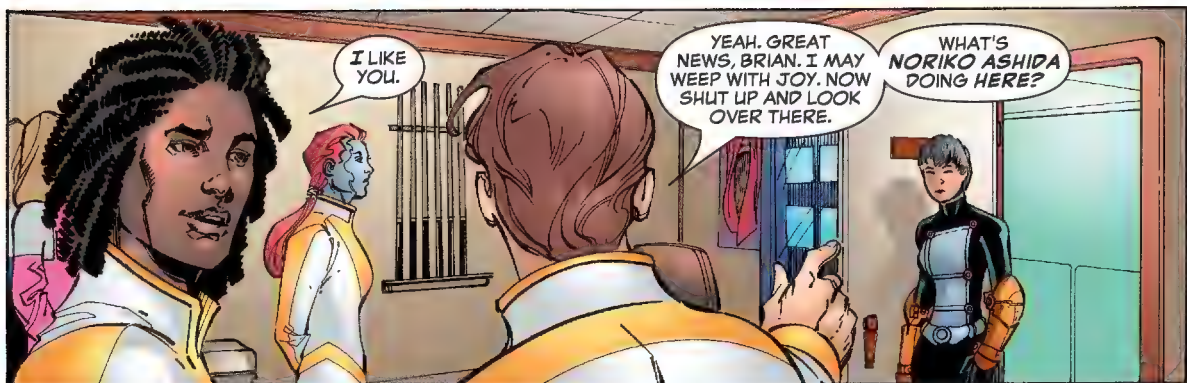


I WOULDN'T TRUST GARRISON IF I WERE YOU.



WE TRUST HIM MORE THAN WE TRUST YOU, QUENTIN.

DON'T YOU GET IT? NOBODY HERE LIKES YOU.



I LIKE YOU.

YEAH. GREAT NEWS, BRIAN. I MAY WEEP WITH JOY. NOW SHUT UP AND LOOK OVER THERE.

WHAT'S NORIKO ASHIDA DOING HERE?



HEY. IS DAVID AROUND?

I THINK HE'S IN HIS ROOM. DOWN THE HALL. FIRST DOOR ON THE LEFT.

I REMEMBER.



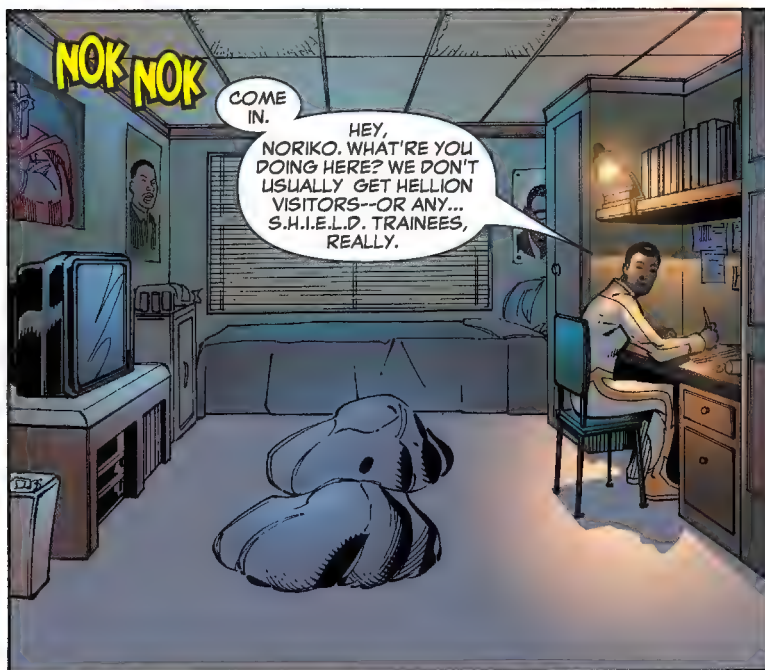
WHY'D YOU TELL HER WHERE DAVID WAS, CESSILY?

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A STATE SECRET, BRIAN. BESIDES, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? THROW HER OUT?



WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE WANTS?

I HAVE NO IDEA.





WHY WOULD THEY EVEN TELL YOU THAT?

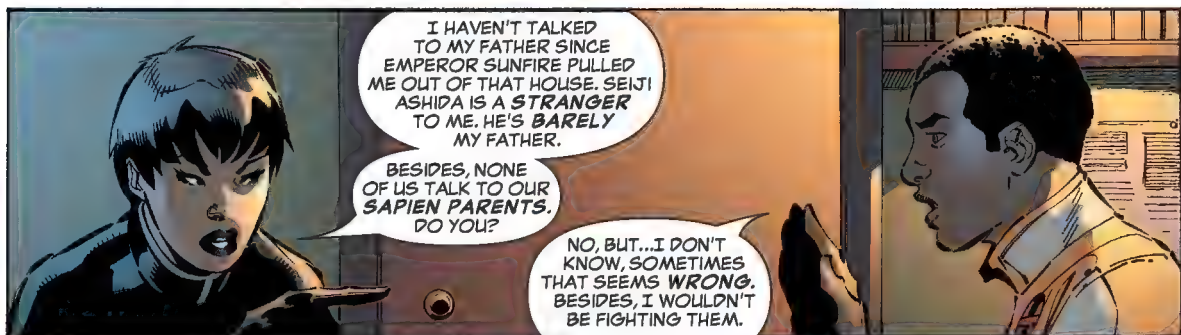
WELL, HERE'S THE TRICKY PART, DAVID. I DON'T KNOW WHICH UPSETS ME MORE.

THE FACT THAT THEY'RE GOING AFTER MY FATHER OR THE FACT THAT THEY CUT ME OUT.



NORIKO, THEY WERE **RIGHT** NOT TO SEND YOU. YOU CAN'T GO AFTER YOUR **FATHER**. THIS IS A **RESISTANCE** MOVEMENT! IT'S GOING TO GET **VIOLENT**!

YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO FIGHT YOUR DAD...OR WORSE, KILL HIM.



I HAVEN'T TALKED TO MY FATHER SINCE EMPEROR SUNFIRE PULLED ME OUT OF THAT HOUSE. SEIJI ASHIDA IS A **STRANGER** TO ME. HE'S **BARELY** MY FATHER.

BESIDES, NONE OF US TALK TO OUR **SAPIEN** PARENTS. DO YOU?

NO, BUT...I DON'T KNOW, SOMETIMES THAT SEEMS **WRONG**. BESIDES, I WOULDN'T BE FIGHTING THEM.



YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. IF I WERE THERE, I COULD KEEP IT FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND. I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE TALK HIM DOWN SO HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE.

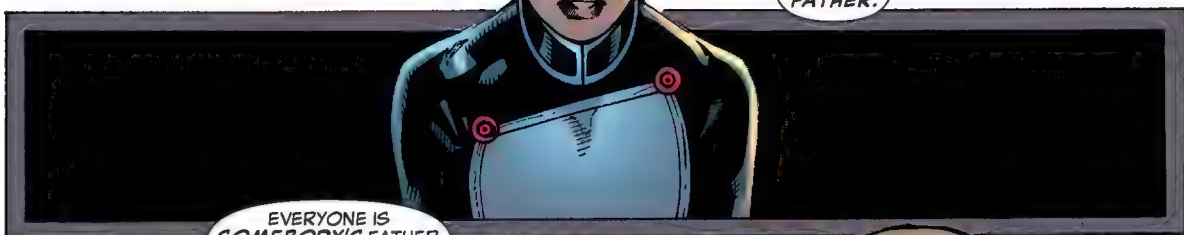
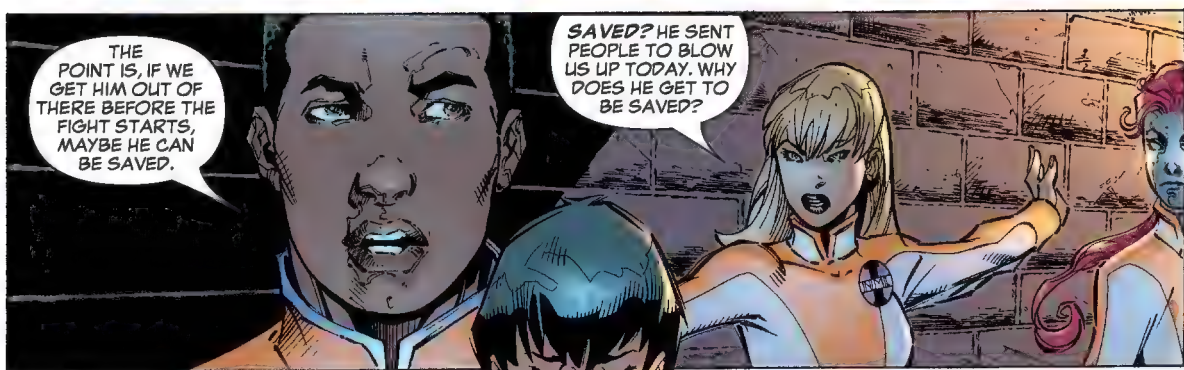


BUT THEY ARE **TERRORISTS** AND JULIAN WON'T HESITATE. MY DAD IS GOING TO DIE. I SHOULDN'T CARE. BUT I DO.

I'M SORRY. I WISH THERE WERE SOMETHING I COULD DO...



THERE IS...HELP ME GET HIM OUT OF JAPAN BEFORE THE HELLIONS FIND HIM!



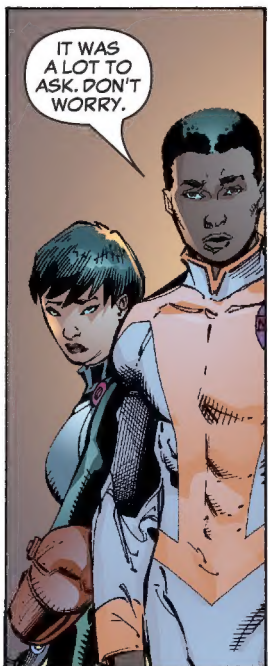


YOU WOULD CARE, LAURIE. WE BOTH KNOW THAT.

MAYBE I WOULD. BUT MY MOM'S NOT A TERRORIST. NORIKO'S FATHER IS A DANGEROUS MAN AND S.H.I.E.L.D. SHOULD BE GOING AFTER HIM.



SHE'S RIGHT, DAVID. I'M SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T DO THIS FOR YOU.



IT WAS A LOT TO ASK. DON'T WORRY.

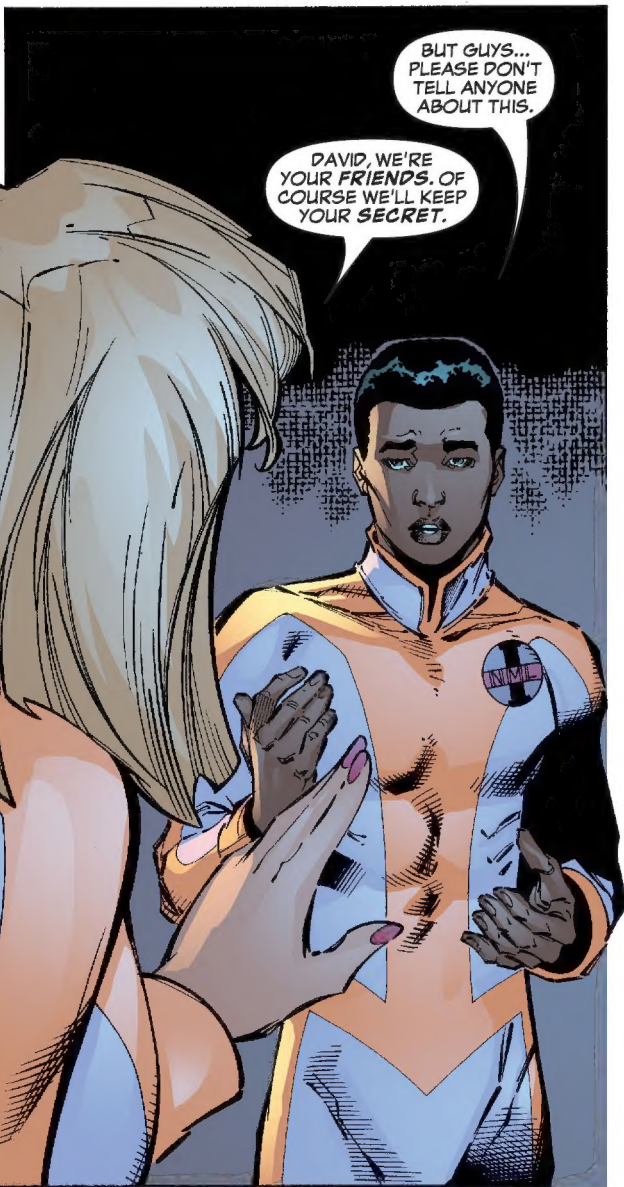


AND YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T DO IT, EITHER.



WE HAVE TO. MAYBE WE'LL GET HIM TO TURN HIMSELF IN, BUT EITHER WAY, WE CAN'T LET HIM BE KILLED.

HE'S NORIKO'S FATHER. THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME.



BUT GUYS... PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

DAVID, WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS. OF COURSE WE'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET.

⊗ TOKYO, JAPAN



⊗ MEANWHILE...



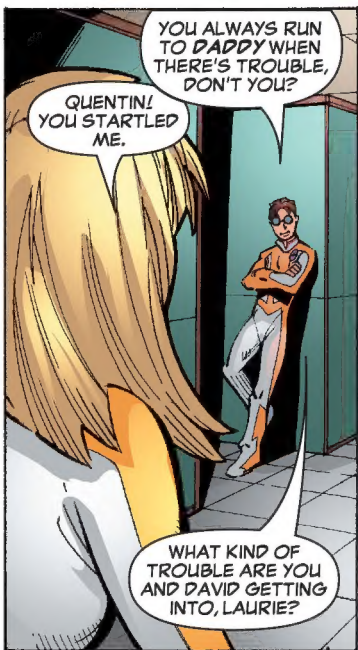
DAD,
YOU GOT A
MINUTE?

OF COURSE, LAURIE.
I ALWAYS HAVE TIME
FOR YOU. IS THIS ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
TODAY?

NO, DAD. IT'S
ABOUT WHAT
MAY HAPPEN
TOMORROW.

MY FRIEND
DAVID MAY BE
PLANNING SOME-
THING ILLEGAL...

GO
ON...



YOU ALWAYS RUN
TO DADDY WHEN
THERE'S TROUBLE,
DON'T YOU?

QUENTIN!
YOU STARTLED
ME.

WHAT KIND OF
TROUBLE ARE YOU
AND DAVID GETTING
INTO, LAURIE?



THAT'S REALLY
NONE OF YOUR
BUSINESS.

FINE. DON'T
TELL ME. I'M A
TELEPATH. I'LL
JUST GET IT FROM
YOUR HEAD.

DON'T YOU
DARE--



GOING TO
JAPAN, HUH? ALLEYNE
REALLY DOESN'T MESS
AROUND, DOES HE?

AND YOU. YOU'VE
CHANGED YOUR MIND.
YOUR DAD TOLD YOU
TO GO AND HELP DAVID.
WHY WOULD HE...?

OH, NO.



YOU...? YOUR DAD?

IF YOU KNOW MY SECRET, THEN YOU KNOW WHY YOU SHOULDN'T MESS WITH ME, QUENTIN.



NO. YOU DON'T WANT TO MESS WITH ME. I CAN MAKE YOUR MIND SHUT OFF! YOU'D BE DEAD IN AN INSTANT!



SO THAT'S HOW YOU COULD KILL YOURSELF IF YOU WERE SUICIDAL?

THEN DO IT. YOU'RE FEELING VERY...DEPRESSED. LIFE'S BEEN UNKIND TO YOU. NO ONE HERE LIKES YOU.



URK...

MY PHEROMONES CAN CONTROL YOU COMPLETELY. AND THEY LEAVE NO TRACE.



SORRY, BUT I COULDN'T HAVE YOU TELL ANYONE ABOUT ME UNTIL DAVID AND NORIKO LEAD ME TO THE RESISTANCE GROUP.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE INTO MY HEAD, QUENTIN. S.H.I.E.L.D. LIKES ITS SECRET AGENTS TO BE SECRET, YOU KNOW?